Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (New): An information input/output device for visually impaired users, comprising:

a braille output unit including a plurality of projectable dotted portions and enabling output of a plurality of braille patterns by controlling projection of the dotted portions;

an input device including a push part which is operated by a pushing operation; and

a recognition section for recognizing that an operation toward character information indicated by braille patterns which are output by the braille output unit is input or not;

wherein the braille output unit also functions as the push part of the input device, and

the recognition section recognizes that the operation toward the character information is input when the push part is pushed within a specified period of time after the character information is indicated by the braille patterns, and also recognizes that an operation toward the character information is not input when the push part is not pushed within the specified period of time after the character information is indicated by the braille patterns.

Claim 27 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 26, wherein the braille output unit enables output of braille patterns at a plurality of positions along a transverse direction which is perpendicular to a direction of projection of the dotted portions, and the braille output unit comprises a braille pattern control section which controls the projection of the dotted portions in accordance with the output braille pattern, and further controls the projection of the dotted portions so as to move a braille pattern output by the dotted portions along the transverse direction while maintaining an arrangement of the braille pattern.

Claim 28 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 26, further comprising a plurality of said input means, each comprising a respective braille output unit.

Claim 29 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 26, wherein a plurality of bags in which an electrical viscous fluid is enclosed are positioned in conformity with the positions of the dotted portions, and the projection of the dotted portions are controlled by changing viscosity of the electrical viscous fluid in each of the bags.

Claim 30 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 26, embodied as a part of a vending machine.

Claim 31 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 26, embodied as a part of a fare adjustment machine.

Claim 32 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 26, embodied as a part of a cash dispenser.

Claim 33 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 26, wherein the recognition section recognizes that a YES/NO input operation toward the character information is YES when the push part is pushed within the specified period of time after the character information is indicated by the braille patterns, and also recognizes that the YES/NO input operation toward the character information is NO when the push part is not pushed within the specified period of time after the character information is indicated by the braille patterns.

Claim 34 (New): An information input/output device for visually impaired users, comprising:

a user-actuatable push part comprising a braille output surface for outputting braille characters, the braille output surface comprising openings through which selectively actuated pins extend to form the braille characters;

a processing system for controlling the outputting of the braille characters on the braille output surface and processing user response to the outputting of the braille characters, the processing system recognizing that a response to the braille characters output by the braille output surface is input when the push part is actuated by a pushing operation within a specified period of time after the braille characters are output by the braille output surface and the processing system recognizing that no response to the braille characters output by the braille output surface is input when the push part is not actuated by a pushing operation within the specified period of time after the braille characters are output by the braille output surface.

Claim 35 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 34, wherein the braille output surface provides braille characters at a plurality of positions along a transverse direction which is perpendicular to a direction of projection of the pins, and

the processing system further controls the projections of the pins so as to move the braille characters along the transverse direction.

Claim 36 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 35, further comprising:

at least one additional user-actuatable push part, each additional push part comprising its own braille output surface.

Claim 37 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 34, further comprising:

at least one additional user-actuatable push part, each additional push part comprising its own braille output surface.

Claim 38 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 34, embodied as part of a vending machine.

Claim 39 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 34, embodied as part of a fare adjustment machine.

Claim 40 (New): An information input/output device according to claim 34, embodied as part of a cash dispenser.